

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following. New claims 47-56 have been added, and claims 27-46 have been canceled herein, leaving claims 47-56 pending. The new claims are supported by the originally filed application. See, for example, Figures 1 and 2 (the elected species) as well as the accompanying descriptive text within the specification. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

Formal Matters

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 27-29, 35-39, and 41-46 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for lack of written description. Claims 27-29, 35-39 and 41-46 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. The objection to claim 27 is similarly resolved. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected to the Drawings for allegedly not showing all of the features of claims 27 and 41. These claims have been canceled, thereby rendering the objection moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Art Rejections

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 27-29, 35-39, and 41-46 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Wijkamp et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,167,647) in view of Long et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,632,488). Claims 27-29, 35-39 and 41-46 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection.

In particular, it is noted that Wijkamp et al. is directed to a catheter that includes a distinctly separate strain relief member. Long et al., however, is directed to a strain relief device for electrical cords. It is not understood how the Examiner contends it would be obvious to one of skill in the art to combine elements of a catheter and an electrical cord to obtain the claimed invention. Certainly, one of skill in the art would not be motivated

to combine elements of a catheter and elements of an electrical cord, as there would be no reasonable expectation of success upon doing so.

Moreover, Applicants do not believe that one of skill in the art would be motivated to combine elements of two such disparate references. One of skill in the art in the medical device field would not be motivated to look for elements within the electrical field. Long et al. simply must be considered as non-analogous art.

Even if these references are combinable (a point not conceded herein), the claimed invention is still not met. Neither reference describes or suggests the claimed monolithic catheter hub in which the proximal portion and the distal strain relief portion are monolithically molded as a single piece of a single material. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 36 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Wijkamp et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,167,647) in view of Long et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,632,488), and further in view of Prichard et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,380,301). Claims 36 and 46 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

With respect to the newly added claims 47-56, Applicants believe that these claims are indeed patentable over the art of record in this application. The claimed invention as recited in claims 47-56 is directed to a monolithic catheter hub (claim 47) and a catheter including such a monolithic catheter hub (claim 54).

The claimed monolithic catheter hub includes a proximal hub portion and a distal strain relief portion. A lumen extends between the proximal hub portion and the distal strain relief portion. The proximal hub portion and the distal strain relief portion are monolithically molded as a single piece of a single material. They are not distinct pieces that are separately formed and then joined together. They are formed together as a single, unitary, monolithic structure. None of the references cited during prosecution of this application are believed to describe or suggest the presently claimed invention.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is submitted that all pending claims are currently in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is anticipated. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at 612-677-9050.

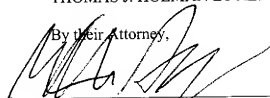
Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS J. HOLMAN ET AL.

By their Attorney,

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Glenn M. Seager, Reg. No. 36,926
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC
1221 Nicollet Avenue, Suite 800
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403-2420
Tel: (612) 677-9050